

Duxbury Clipper



Plans Made To Refinance Duxbury Playhouse

Almost a hundred persons interested in having the Duxbury Playhouse continue attended Monday night's meeting at the Unitarian Parish House, where Mr. C. Russell Eddy, president of the board of directors, and treasurer Elbert A. Harvey gave a lucid account of the status of the Playhouse. At the meeting more than 25 persons volunteered to form a committee to raise \$5,000 which, with the \$5,000 the directors themselves will raise, will assure the continuance of the theatre. This is not a large amount in light of the fact that close to \$50,000 has already been invested in what promises to be one of the outstanding summer theatres in New England. Contributions will be taken in any amount, but it is hoped that the solicitors will each raise \$200 on an average.

Mr. Eddy and Mr. Harvey presented convincing arguments that the Playhouse could and would be made into a profitable enterprise if backed by community support. A training school for actors with the type of competent staff advocated by Mrs. Helen Trimble would bring in considerable income by using available local talent, said Mr. Eddy, and by hiring professionals only when needed and for more limited periods, and by cutting down the overhead, the overall picture would become much brighter. It should be remembered that in 1949 the Playhouse operated successfully on less than half the cost this past summer. Mr. Eddy said a better selection of plays and a more concerted effort on the part of friends of the Playhouse to organize theatre parties would further fortify the assurance of success.

Mrs. Helen Trimble, Mr. Walter G. Prince and others clearly pointed out that Duxbury is primarily interested in the survival of the Playhouse itself, which has added so much to the cultural life of the community and which, incidentally, prospective buyers of Duxbury property regard as an asset.

Danger of Commercial Interests Taking Over

Moreover, as Mrs. Trimble said, if remedial financial measures are not taken immediately to save the Playhouse, there is the impending danger of commercial interests taking over, which would mean that Duxbury would no longer have its uniquely charming community theatre. She bolstered the general feeling that the Playhouse itself should be the primary concern, that no personal conflicts in its management should in any way be permitted to disturb its smooth operation. At the end of a warm but not superheated discussion, Mr. William Coffin crystallized the opinion of most of those present when he said the keynote of the meeting was that the Duxbury Playhouse must continue. This sentiment was also expressed by some of the players present, notably Joan Field and Katherine Kerr. Miss Kerr and Miss Virginia Donaldson came from New York to attend the meeting. Also present was Miss Ruth Coffin.

Mr. Morrison M. Bump suggested a study should be made of other summer theatres which have been successfully operating and outlined a plan for expanding advertising income. Both proposals met with favor, and Mr. Eddy said that once the immediate financial crisis had passed, the board would act on the suggestions.

Harvey Clears Atmosphere

Mr. Harvey paid tribute to the individual contributions made by Mr. Albert Moritz and Mr. Arthur Murphy, adding that by a majority vote of the board of directors, both had been invited to return next summer in well defined capacities. Mr. Moritz will be asked to direct the productions, Mr. Murphy to handle the business end of the enterprise. Mr. Harvey, in "getting down to brass tacks," cleared the atmosphere considerably, and most of those present felt his judicial and cool analytical appraisal of the Playhouse situation

went a long way in correcting false rumor and prevalent misunderstandings. He said the Duxbury Playhouse, Inc., included a theatre proper, a training school for aspiring actors and a virtual hotel business, and that it would be too much to expect any single person to handle adequately all three phases of the enterprise.

All present went away with the feeling that Mr. Eddy and Mr. Harvey did a superb job of clarifying the Playhouse situation.

Special Town Meeting

Several Thousands Dollars Needed To Defray Town Charges.

Several thousand dollars will be requested at the Special Town Meeting on Dec. 1 to defray town charges. The meeting, which will begin at 8 p.m., will be held in the High School Auditorium. The first of the two articles Duxbury tax-payers will act on reads: "To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from available funds such sums of money as are necessary to defray town charges." Article 2, which will also be acted on, reads: "Will the Town vote to accept from Gershom Bradford the gift of a parcel of land for cemetery purposes."

Welfare Board Needs Most Money As of Nov. 16, 1950, the following requests for additional funds were made: Planning Board \$100, Civil Defense \$100, Vocational and Americanization \$189, Election and Registration \$250, School Department \$450, Police Department \$486, Veterans' Benefits \$1000, Old Age Assistance \$7300.

These requests are subject to revision. The Welfare Board, for example, will ask for approximately \$2300 less than the above amount, according to Mrs. James Stannard, chairman of the Board. The reason for this reduction is the September payment that has been made by the Federal Government since Nov. 16. The Finance Committee has considered all these items, meeting with the Department Heads concerned, and will be prepared to make its recommendations to the voters at the time of the Meeting.

Since the proposed funds to be appropriated are considerable, it is hoped that there will be a large turnout of Duxbury residents who are qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs, for any action taken at the Meeting will have a direct bearing on Duxbury's tax rate.

SNUG HARBOR GUILD

WASHINGTON STREET

TOYS

GIFTS — JEWELRY
— GREETING CARDS

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Hours: 9:30 to 6:00
Open Friday Evenings